UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/395
8 April 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith resolution No. 5856 dated 18 March 1999, entitled "Occupation by Iran of the Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates", adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its one hundred and eleventh regular session (see annex). I should be grateful if you would draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to this letter and its annex, in particular to paragraph 7 of the resolution, in which the Council of the League of Arab States decided to call the attention of the United Nations to the importance of maintaining this item on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized (S/1999/25).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hussein HASSOUNA
Ambassador

99-10083 (E) 080499

/...

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Occupation by Iran of the Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Council of the League,

Having considered the memorandum by the General Secretariat,

Noting that the Iranian Government has not responded to the serious and sincere appeals by the Summit Conference of the Heads of Arab States, the Council of the League of Arab States, the States signatories to the Damascus Declaration, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the United Arab Emirates for a peaceful settlement of the dispute,

Noting also that the Iranian Government persists in occupying the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and in seeking to impose the fait accompli by force,

Noting that Iran recently carried out military manoeuvres which took place inter alia on the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, as well as in their territorial waters, and that it has set up a town council and an instruction centre on Abu Musa,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Political Committee,

1. Reaffirms all its previous resolutions on this subject;

2. Reaffirms the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over these three islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and its unreserved support for the peaceful measures and initiatives taken by that State to regain its sovereignty over the islands;

3. Denounces the measures taken by the Iranian Government to strengthen its occupation of the three islands, as well as the violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, which constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region;

4. Condemns the Iranian military manoeuvres which extended to the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, as well as to their territorial waters, and calls on Iran to put an end to its acts of provocation, which do not contribute to confidence-building and threaten the peace and stability of the region, as well as regional and international shipping in the Gulf;

5. Again calls on the Iranian Government to put an end to the occupation of the three islands and to the fait accompli imposed by force, and to refrain from building any infrastructure on the three islands with a view to changing

their demographic structure, to cancel all measures directed towards this end, to dismantle the facilities installed unilaterally on the three islands and to resort to peaceful means in order to settle the dispute in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, inter alia, by bringing the matter before the International Court of Justice;

6. Calls on Iran to give effect through concrete action to the intentions proclaimed by President Mohamed Khatami regarding his readiness to improve relations with the Arab States, by taking action on the sincere and serious proposals put forward by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, head of State of the United Arab Emirates, the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the signatory States of the Damascus Declaration and the Arab States, as well as regional and international organizations and groups and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, aimed at bringing about a peaceful settlement of the dispute over the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in accordance with international practice and legal instruments, through direct negotiations or recourse to arbitration by the International Court of Justice, in order to restore trust and strengthen security and stability in the region;

7. Calls the attention of the United Nations to the importance of maintaining the issue on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized until Iran puts an end to its occupation and the United Arab Emirates regains its full sovereignty over the three islands;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to monitor developments relating to the issue and to submit a report to it at its next session.